IN THE CLAIMS

Page 28, line 1, insert --What is claimed is:--.

Please amend the claims as follows:

4.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is included in a picture header.

12.   (Amended) A portable radio communications device including at least one of a video encoder and a video decoder,

wherein said video decoder comprises:

an input for receiving a video signal representing a sequence of pictures and for generating encoded pictures, said encoder being arranged to employ both non-temporal prediction and temporal prediction, wherein the encoder is arranged, for each picture that forms a reference picture for the temporal prediction of another picture, to associate with each reference picture an indicator indicating the temporal order of the reference picture in the encoded video signal relative to other reference pictures in the encoded video signal, and

wherein said video decoder comprises:

an input for receiving an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, a decoder for decoding each received picture, the decoder being arranged to examine for each picture to be decoded that forms a reference picture

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for another picture an indicator representing the temporal order of a reference frame and, when the indicator does not follow consecutively from an immediately preceding decoded reference frame, to detect a lost reference frame.

Please add new claim 13 as follows:

-- 13. A video encoder according to claim 12, further comprising means for incrementing the indicator each time a reference picture is encoded.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A method of encoding a video signal representing a sequence of pictures, the method employing both non-temporal prediction and temporal prediction, wherein the method comprises, for each picture that forms a reference picture for the temporal prediction of another picture, associating with each such picture an indicator indicating the temporal order of the reference picture in the encoded video signal relative to the other reference pictures in the encoded video signal.